

Reader**Readings**

Sun 4 Dec	Margaret Grey	Isaiah 40: 1 – 11; 2 Peter 3: 8 – 15a; (Mark 1: 1 – 8)
Sun 11 Dec	Liz Johnson	Isaiah 61: 1–4, 8–11; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16–24; (John 1: 6 – 8, 19 – 28)
Sun 18 Dec	VARIOUS	Nine Lessons and Carols readings to be arranged
Sat 24 Dec	VARIOUS	Isaiah 62: 6 – 12; Titus 3: 4 – 7; (Luke 2: 8 – 20)
Sun 25 Dec	Alan Waddell	Isaiah 52: 7 – 10; Hebrews 1: 1 – 4; (John 1: 1 – 14)
Sun 1 Jan	Liz Johnson	Numbers 6: 22 – 27; Galatians 4: 4 – 7; (Luke 2: 15 – 21)

Please arrange to swap with someone if unavailable for the allocated date

Christmas Song - Bliss Carman

Above the weary waiting world, asleep in chill despair,
There breaks a sound of joyous bells upon the frosted air.
And o'er the humblest rooftree, lo, a star is dancing in the snow.

What makes the yellow star to dance upon the brink of night?
What makes the breaking dawn to flow so magically bright,
And all the earth to be renewed with infinite beatitude?

The singing bells, the throbbing star, the sunbeams on the snow,
And the awakening heart that leaps new ecstasy to know.
They are all dancing in the morn because a little child is born.

A Prayer for our Children

Dear God, thank you for showing your love by giving us the baby Jesus.
Help us to share Christmas love everywhere.

A Riddle for Christmas

Which of Santa's reindeer needs to mind his manners the most?

ST MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TAYPORT

⦿ NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2011 ⦿



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From your Rector

Dear Friends,

Here we are, once again in this season of Advent - the season of expectation and preparation as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Jesus as a tiny infant and also looks ahead to his return. After the arctic blast which heralded Advent last year we really are in the "watching and waiting" to see what comes this year!

I hope that you will be able to take time from your own preparations for the festive season to share the preparations here in church. There are a number of different services—Nine Lessons and Carols on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Christingle Service and Watchnight Service on Christmas Eve and our Christmas morning service; there should be one or two to suite everyone. On the four Wednesday afternoons in Advent we will be having our Meditations for Advent, a time for "slowing the pace" and taking time to reflect on the real meaning and message of Christmas - so please do come and help us celebrate the miracle of God coming to us in the form of a tiny baby, Jesus.

With love and prayers for a holy and peaceful Advent and Christmas, Christine

From our Service Registers

This month can we please remember in our prayers those whose anniversary of death falls at this time: Tommy Buist, Vera Craig and John Wilkie.

Celebrations at St Margaret's

On Wednesday 16 November, St Margaret's day saw us celebrating not only our Patron's day but also the 115 year anniversary of the Church building. The candlelit path welcomed worshippers to a special service which was conducted by Rev Christine Barclay. She welcomed members of the clergy and community, including Rev Prof Bobby Summerville, Canon David Day and Rev Dr David Campbell, all previous Rectors of St Margarets. Our opening hymn was written by a former Bishop Michael Hare-Duke "Queen Margaret of Scotland". Our collection of £121 was raised for Save the Children, a cause very close to St Margaret's heart. After the service we retired to the Dickson Hall for refreshments where old Church registers and photographs were available for people to browse. An evening of fellowship and worship was enjoyed by all.

December Events

Meditations for Advent on Wednesdays 30 November, 7, 14 and 21 December @ 3.15 pm in Church. 45 minutes of prayer and reflection on William Barclay's Book "*Christmas: what the bible tells us about the Christmas story*". Looking at The message that Matthew's gospel gives us.

December Services Diary

Every Wednesday	Midday Prayers (15mins) in Church
Sun 4 Dec 10.30pm	2nd Sunday in Advent - Family Eucharist followed by tea/coffee in the hall - Rev Malcolm Aldcroft
Sun 11 Dec 10.30pm	3rd Sunday in Advent - Family Eucharist followed by AGM
Sun 18 Dec 10.30pm	4th Sunday in Advent - Nine Lessons and Carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the hall
Sat 24 Dec 4.00pm	Christingle Service
11.00pm	Watchnight Service
Sun 25 Dec 10.30pm	Christmas Day - Family Eucharist followed by refreshments.
Sun 1 Jan 10.30pm	The Naming of Jesus - Family Eucharist followed by tea/coffee in the hall.

December Rotas

	<u>Reception</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun 4 Dec	Christine Barker	Liz Johnson
Sun 11 Dec	Margaret Redpath	Janette Turvey
Sun 18 Dec	Janette Turvey	Alex Cook
Sun 24 Dec	Alex Cook	Liz Johnson
Sun 25 Dec	Christine Barker	
Sun 1 Jan	Margaret Redpath	Janette Turvey

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Bullet points from Vestry meeting held 23 October 2011

- Fabric - matters outstanding included a replacement blind in the Dickson Hall and the boundary fence. The hall floor and walls will also require attention in 2012.
- Publicity - the updates to the website are on-going and new photographs will be added soon.
- Music - it was agreed to have a sung Sanctus during the Eucharist in Advent
- Licensing of Lay Reader - Bishop David would be licensing Margaret Gray as Lay Reader early in 2012.